

Abstract

In a recent paper, "Interpreting Negatives in Discourse," Michael Kohlhasse and Mandy Simons apply a tableau-based model generation calculus to the problem of interpreting negated sentences. They claim that it is possible, using this calculus, to generate all of the interpretations of a basic negated sentence and they lay out certain principles to be used in choosing the most salient interpretation of the given sentence. For my thesis project, I have created a program in Java which formalizes the model generation calculus. This program is utilized in a web-based survey/experiment to see if the hypotheses put forward by Simons and Kohlhasse about the selection of the likely interpretation of a sentence accurately reflect actual intuitions.